

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A sterile patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the breathable backing displays a moisture vapor transmission rate (MVTR) value within the range of from about 500 to about 5000 g/m²/d and comprises a copolymer film wherein the copolymer is a copolymer of a polyester and a polyether, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, and wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 0.5% to about 20% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.

2-4. **Canceled.**

5. **(Previously presented)** The patch of claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. **(Previously presented)** The patch of claim 5, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.

7 – 11. **Canceled.**

12. **(Currently amended)** A package containing a sterile patch, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the breathable backing displays a moisture vapor transmission rate (MVTR) value within the range of from about 500 to about 5000 g/m²/d and comprises a copolymer film wherein the copolymer is a copolymer of a polyester and a polyether, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, ~~and~~ wherein the hydrogel comprises about 10% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.

13-14. **Canceled.**

15. **(Previously presented)** The package of claim 12, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. **(Previously presented)** The package of claim 15, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.

17 – 21. **Canceled.**

22. **(Currently amended)** A method of inducing local anesthesia in a mammal comprising topically applying a sterile patch to the mammal, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the breathable backing displays a moisture vapor transmission rate (MVTR) value within the range of from about 500 to about 5000 g/m²/d and comprises a copolymer film wherein the copolymer is a copolymer of a polyester and a polyether, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, ~~and~~ wherein the hydrogel comprises about 10% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.

23-25. **Canceled.**

26. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 22, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 26, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.

28 – 54. **Canceled.**

55. **(Previously presented)** The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 10% to about 30%, by weight, of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

56. **(Previously presented).** The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 2% to about 10%, by weight, of local anesthetic.

57-58. **Canceled.**

59. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 22, wherein the patch is applied to non-intact skin on the mammal.

60. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 59, wherein the patch is applied to a burn or wound of the skin.

61. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 60, wherein the patch is applied to a surgically closed wound of the skin.

62. **(Currently amended)** The patch of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the preservative is a blend of paraben esters in phenoxyethanol.

63. **(Currently amended)** The package of claim ~~14~~ 12, wherein the preservative is a blend of paraben esters in phenoxyethanol.

64. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~25~~ 22, wherein the preservative is a blend of paraben esters in phenoxyethanol.

65. **(Currently amended)** A sterile patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, wherein the breathable backing displays a moisture vapor transmission rate (MVTR) value within the range of from about 500 to about 5000 g/m²/d and comprises a copolymer film wherein the copolymer is a copolymer of a polyester and a polyether, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35% by weight polyvinylpyrrolidone, ~~and~~ wherein the hydrogel comprises about 10% to about 20% by weight of a local anesthetic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and wherein the hydrogel further comprises a preservative.

66-67. **Canceled.**

68. **(Previously presented)** The patch of claim 65, wherein the local anesthetic comprises a sodium-channel blocker or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

69. **(Previously presented)** The patch of claim 68, wherein the sodium-channel blocker is lidocaine.